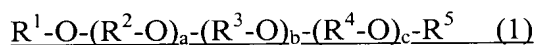


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A lube base oil other than silicone oil having a kinematic viscosity of 12 mm²/s or below at 40°C, exhibiting, in Noack test (250°C, 1 hr), an evaporation loss of 30 mass% or below and/or a flash point of 200°C or higher, [[and]] exhibiting an aniline point of 60°C or higher, and

comprising any of the ether compounds represented by the following formula, or a mixture thereof:



wherein R¹ and R⁵ each independently represents hydrogen atom, an alkyl group having 1 to 24 carbon atoms, a phenyl group, or an alkylaryl group having 7 to 24 carbon atoms; R², R³, and R⁴ each independently represents an alkylene group having 2 to 18 carbon atoms; each of a, b, and c is 0 to 8 as an averaged value; the sum of a to c is 0 to 8; and the units (R²-O), (R³-O), and (R⁴-O) may be identical to or different from one another.

Claim 2 (Original): A lube base oil as described in claim 1, which exhibits an aniline point of 80°C or higher.

Claim 3 (Original): A lube base oil as described in claim 1, which exhibits a flash point of 220°C or higher.

Claim 4 (Original): A lube base oil as described in claim 1, which has a kinematic viscosity of 10 mm²/s or below at 40°C.

Claims 5-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Original): A lube base oil as described in claim 1, which further contains a hydrocarbon compound.

Claim 8 (Original): A lube base oil as described in claim 7, wherein the hydrocarbon compound is a poly(α -olefin).

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (New): A lube base oil as described in claim 1, wherein each of a, b, and c is 0 to 5 as an averaged value; the sum of a to c is 0 to 5.

Claim 11 (New): A lube base oil as described in claim 1, wherein b and c are 0 in said formula (1).

Claim 12 (New): A lube base oil as described in claim 1, wherein a, b and c are 0 in said formula (1).

Claim 13 (New): A lube base oil as described in claim 1, which exhibits an evaporation loss of 30 mass% or below.

Claim 14 (New): A lube base oil as described in claim 1, which exhibits a flash point of 200°C or higher.

Claim 15 (New): A lube base oil as described in claim 1, which exhibits an evaporation loss of 15 mass% or below.

Claim 16 (New): A lube base oil as described in claim 1, which exhibits an aniline point of 90°C to 110°C.

Claim 17 (New): A lube base oil as described in claim 1, which exhibits a viscosity index of 120 or higher.

Claim 18 (New): A lube base oil as described in claim 1, which exhibits a pour point of -20°C or lower.

Claim 19 (New): A lubricating oil composition comprising a lube base oil as recited in claim 1, mixed with at least one additive selected from the group consisting of an antioxidant, a viscosity index improver, a detergent dispersant, a friction reducing agent, a metal inactivator, a pour point depressant, an abrasion resisting agent, a defoamer, and an extreme-pressure additive.